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touring prescribed for Conservators is six months. The time they spend at their headquarters should not therefore exceed six months.

(d) No considerable area of forest reserves can be transferred to panchayat management unless and until the Forest Panchayat staff is increased. The abolition of certain forest divisions is under consideration and the redistribution of circles will be considered in due course.

(e) None.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—“ With reference to clause (a) I may say that the people of Coimbatore want that Coimbatore should be made the headquarters of the Conservator, V Circle.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ Government have passed orders giving a bungalow to the V Circle Conservator at Coimbatore.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ May I know what the special qualifications of the Panchayat staff are ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ They have all been trained specially in the Forest department. Some of them belong to the Revenue Department, but they have all been specially trained.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Is it not a fact that except the special panchayat officer all the rest are drawn from the lower ranks of the clerical staff of the Revenue Department ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ Not all, but a few of them are from the Revenue Department and it cannot be helped.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ My information is that many of them are from the Revenue Department. Are there not forest subordinates of the ranger class available for this kind of work ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ I think we should leave the power of appointment in the hands of the Conservator of Forests.”

Government Houses.

Use of the Government House, Guindy, for race purposes.

* 126 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether any part of the Government House, Guindy, or the establishment attached thereto is used by the jockeys or others connected with the running of the Guindy Races and if so, with whose permission and on what terms ?

A.—Government House, Guindy, is not used by jockeys or others, but certain buildings (viz., stables, out-houses, etc.) in the grounds are let to the Madras Race Club up to 1st April 1926. The rent is credited to Government.

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Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" This question has not been fully answered. May I know on what terms the grounds were let to the Madras Race Club ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" A rental of Rs. 8,000 per annum is charged and it is credited to the Government."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" With whose permission ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" With the permission of the Government, I think."

Jails.

Representation of the Discharged Prisoners' Societies on the Boards of Visitors to Jails.

* 127 Q.—Sriman SASIRHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether any orders have been passed for the representation of the Discharged Prisoners' Societies on the Boards of Visitors to the various jails; and if not, whether the Government propose to pass such orders?

A.—Yes; the Government have instructed the Commissioner of Police and the District Magistrates to see that preference is given to persons connected with the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society in the selection of non-official visitors to the Board.

Use of pillows for prisoners in Cuddalore, etc.

* 128 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether prisoners in the jails at Cuddalore and Trichinopoly are allowed the use of pillows; and
- (b) if not, why not?

A.—(a) & (b) Pillows are not supplied to Indian prisoners except to those who are sick in the jail hospital. Rule 379 (1) of the Jail Manual, however, requires that the Indian prisoners in jails, where no pials with a head-rest exist, should be supplied with coir or aloe mats 8 feet in length and 2½ feet in breadth, so that one end may be rolled up to form a pillow. The Superintendents of Trichinopoly and Cuddalore Jails have been instructed to comply strictly with the requirements of the above rule.

Labour.

Labour in Shoranur-Nilambur Railway.

* 129 Q.—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

- (a) what is the rate fixed in the estimates for unskilled labour of men, women and children in the working of the Shoranur-Nilambur Railway and whether the contractors are allowed to give any wages as they choose; and